# Bijli Mahadev Temple, Kashawri Village, Kullu valley, Himachal Pradesh

**Ref: Wikipedia**

**Bijli Mahadev** temple is located in Kashawri village, Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India. It is located at an altitude of about 2,460 meters. The temple is one of the ancient temples in India and is dedicated to a major deity in Hinduism, god Shiva.

**History**

As per Hindu legend, the Bijli Mahadev temple was built as a way to pay homage to lord Shiva after he defeated the *asura* (demon) named Jalandhara with his trident and saved the Kullu valley from being submerged. The temple has been in existence from ancient times, per the local inhabitants. A different version of the legend also exists, which says that lord Shiva had killed an *asura* named Kulanta who reached Kully from the Mathan village in Lahaul-Spiti. Kulanta took the form of a giant serpent and wanted to submerge all forms of life on the planet under water. Shiva defeated the demon and rescued the people.[3][1]

The temple is named Bijli Mahadev because lightning (*bijli*) strikes the temple every 12 years that breaking the *lingam* into pieces. The priest of the temple then uses a mixture of *chopad* (homemade butter), pulse flour and cereal to put together the broken pieces of the *lingam*. The temple has been built in Kath-Kuni architectural style, a traditional *Pahari*-style of constructing structures, especially in Mahasu region, as the temple lies in the region. It is widely believed that the temple was built by the Pandavas during their years of exile.[4]

The *lingam* is placed within the sanctum sanctorum, and the 60-foot-high wooden staff built from deodar trees is placed in front of the temple. There are stone sculptures of Shiva and Nandi on the sides. Devotees circumambulate the sanctum through a wooden rectangular corridor.[2][3]

The temple is among a few of Shiva's temples that are situated on a mountain top. About 23 kilometers away in Bajaura lies another old Shiva temple known as the Basheshwar Mahadev temple.

**Travel**

Located at an elevation of 2,460 meters above the sea level, the Bijli Mahadev temple has the Kullu valley on one side and the Parvati valley on the other. Earlier, the only route to reach the temple was via a long trek. Transport developments have

made it possible to reach the temple from three sides: Kullu valley, Parvati valley, and Naggar town. Trekkers opt for the Naggar route to reach the temple via Jana village that goes through dense deodar forests.[4][2] A 3-kilometer trek from the last motorable access road takes visitors to the temple. A panoramic view of the different valleys can be seen from the temple. The months of April to June and September to November are the best times to visit the temple. The entire mountain gets buried in snow during the winters. Devotees usually visit the temple in the month of *sawan*.

**Photos**

**Traditional Himalayan architecture**

**Wooden Staff at Bijli Mahadev**

**The way to Bijli Mahadev**

**The main Shiv Linga**

**A name board at the Bijli Mahadev temple**

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**Ref: AI Overview:**

The Bijli Mahadev Temple is an ancient and mysterious Shiva temple located in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. Located approximately 2,460 meters above sea level, the temple is renowned for its unique miracle: every 12 years, lightning strikes the Shivalinga. Priests repair the broken Shivalinga with butter.

**Key facts about Bijli Mahadev Temple:**

- **Mysterious Lightning:** It is believed that Lord Shiva himself suffers lightning strikes to protect his devotees. After being struck by lightning, the Shivalinga shatters into pieces, which are then restored with a paste of butter and sattu.
- **Location and Trekking:** The temple is located approximately 20-27 km from Kullu. Reaching it involves a challenging but scenic trek of approximately 3 km from the village of Chansari.
- **Mythological Significance:** This place is also known as 'Kulant Peeth'. According to legend, Lord Shiva killed the demon 'Kulant' here.
- **View:** Near the temple, a 60-foot-high flagpole glistens in the sun. It offers spectacular views of Kullu and the Parvati Valley.
- **When to visit:** The best time to visit is between March and October, as winters can bring heavy snowfall

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**Ref: indiatourismpackage.com**

# Bijli Mahadev Temple

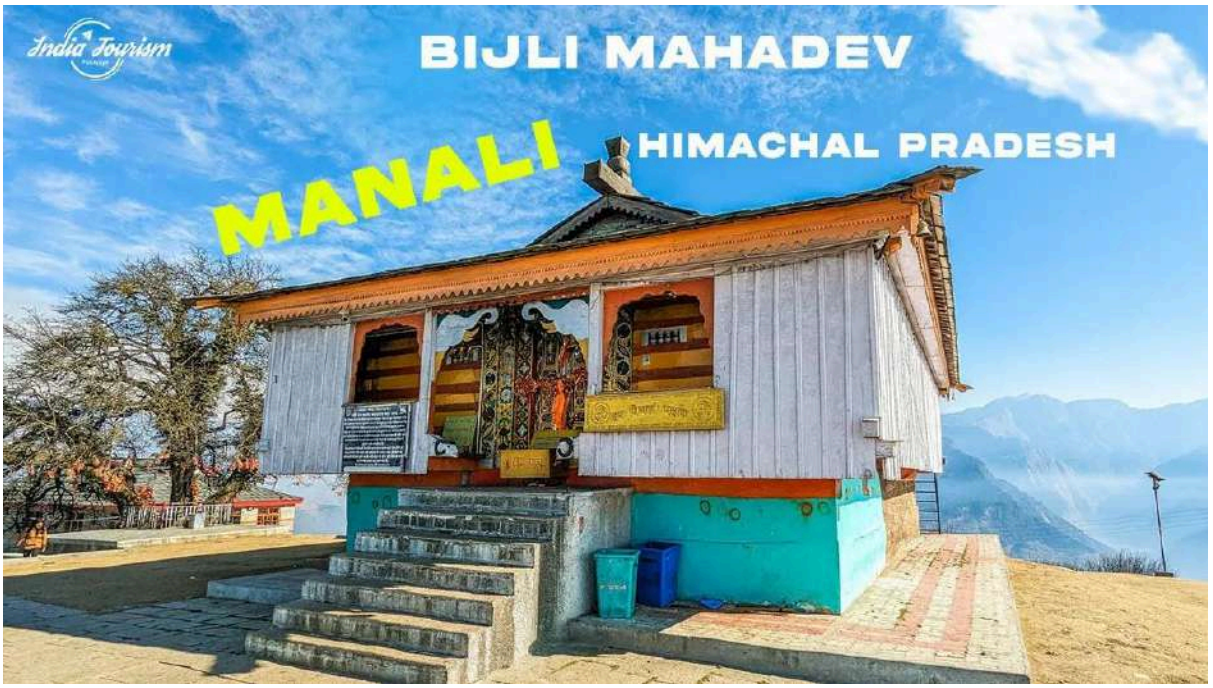
There are many Lord Shiva Temples in the world, and some of them are also known for historic and miracle facts, but this **Bijli Mahadev Temple located in Kullu**, Himacha,l is known for unique reasons. An ancient **Temple of Lord Shiva in India** where the lightning falls at every twelve year and breaks the Shivling in many parts. After that priest of the temple create this Shivling with homemade butter and Satt,u and it looks like same like earlier. This temple is very sacred for locals of Himachal and they worship Lord Shiva to save them from any problems. Most people visit here in the Saavan month during July and August to pray to Lord Shiva.

**Key Info**

- **Location:** Kashwari Village, Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, 24 Km from Kullu
- **Main Deity:** Lord Shiva
- **Elevation:** 2460 Metres
- **Darshan Timings:** 6:00 AM- 8:00 PM (Monday to Sunday)

**History of Bijli Mahadev**

According to Hindu mythology, this Shiva Temple is related to the Kulant demon. Once he came to Kullu Village in the form of a Snake and obstructed the flow of the Beas River, which brings serious water issues to the village. To get rid of this Demon, villagers prayed to Lord Shiva, and the almighty god saved the villagers by killing Kulant. It is said that the nearby area of this place is made of demon bones and bodies. Mahadev had ordered Indra to cause lightning here every 12 years to protect everyone from any big calamity. The thing is observed by locals when devastation takes place and the Shiv lingam breaks into several parts.




**How does the Bijli Mahadev Temple look?**

With sheer brilliance and exciting history, Bijli Mahdev Temple is one of the **Best Tourist Spots Near Manali**. Located on a Hilltop, the temple offers panoramic views of Pir Panjal and Dhauladhar Mountain ranges. Temple architecture is very simple in the Kash Style. Shiva Lingam is situated within the Sanctum. A 60-foot-high wooden pole carved out of a Deodar Tree stands erected in front of the temple and shines like a silver needle in the Sunlight. It is believed that this high pole absorbs all blessings in the form of lightning.

**How to Reach Bijli Mahadev?**

The yatra starts from Kullu or Naggar Valley, but no jeep or car directly reaches the temple, so you must trek a little for about 3 km to 12 km, depending on the route you take. This is not a difficult trek, but you must ascend up hills, so you must be physically fit.

**By Train:** There is no direct train near to temple, but you can take a train to Jogindernagar, which is at 145 km from Manali. Take a private taxi on rent and visit the temple comfortably.

**Nearest Railway Station: Jogindernagar Pathankot, Chandigarh**

**By Air:** The trip starts from Kullu and can be reached via flight. From Kullu, the trip to Chansari Village is approximately 1 hour. There are **various options to reach Kullu** - you can choose an option according to connectivity with your city.

**Nearest Airport: Kullu Bhuntar Airport, Chandigarh Airport**

To reach this temple from Kullu Manali, there is a small trek of approximately 2-3 kilometres from the last motorable village, Chansari. Tourists coming for a **Kullu Manali Trip** must add this mystical place to their itinerary. There are three famous routes to reach the temple- you can choose one according to your location. From Manali, route 1 is the most preferred and easiest.

**By Road:** If you are starting the trip from Manali, take a state-run bus or a private cab service in Manali. To reach Bijli Mahadev Temple from Delhi with your friends or group, book an **Urbania Van on rent in Delhi** for a comfortable and scenic trip.

**Route 1: Kullu- Chansari Village-Bijli Mahadev Temple**

Kullu to Chansari Village distance is 24 km, approximately and takes 1 hour to reach. From here, there is a trek of about 3 km that can be covered in 45 minutes to 1.5 hours, depending on your speed.

**Route 2: Naggar- Jana- Matikochar- Bijli Mahadev**

The Naggar to Bijli Mahadev route is a 12 km long trek, but it is more scenic and offers a good view to trekkers. Here you will cross Kais Wildlife Sanctuary while enjoying Kullu and Parvati Valley views.

### Route 3: Parvati Valley- Chhrod Nalla-Bhrain Village- Bijli Mahadev Temple (by trek)

It can be the best route if you are residing in Parvati Valley, and the trek from here is less than an hour.

### Best Time to Visit the Bijli Mahadev Temple

The summer months from April to June and September to November are the best time to visit the Bijli Mahadev temple to get pleasant weather for trekking and exploring the valley. In the spring months of March and April, it is a little colder, but the entire valley blooms with beautiful flowers. If you are a Shiva devotee and planning in the Saavan months, then plan a trip to Bijli Mahadev in July or August for darshan and to attend the fair organised here.

### How to Plan a Trip to Bijli Mahadev in Himachal Pradesh

To explore this beautiful **temple in Manali**, book an all-inclusive **Manali Tour Package** including transfer and sightseeing to various places. To know more about the Bijli Mahadev trip, contact us and know more about the itinerary, package cost and travel tips.

### FAQs

#### Where is the start point of the Bijli Mahadev Trek?

Depending on the route, the starting point of the Bijli Mahadev Trek can vary. If you are heading from Kullu or Manali, the base for trekking or climbing stairs is Chansari Village.

#### How much distance is between Bijli Mahadev Temple and Kullu Manali?

Kullu to Bijli Mahadev Temple distance is 27 km, while from Manali, the distance is 68 Km and takes 2 hours approx by car or bus via NH3 to reach Chansari Village- base for Temple trek.

#### Can we go to Bijli Mahadev by car directly?

No, to reach the top at the elevation, you must trek from a given point which is not so tough but can take 1 hour approx.

**How is the weather at Bijli Mahadev Temple?**

The temperature in Bijli Mahadev remains 20 to 35 degrees Celsius in summer but can suddenly drop to 15 degrees with rainfall. During winter, temperatures can go below zero degrees, and the entire region can get covered in snow.

**What are the famous tourist places to visit near Baijnath Temple?**

Kullu, Atal Tunnel, Solang Valley, Rohtang Pass, Lord Ramchandra Temple, Manikaran Gurudwara, Manikaran Shiva Temple, Kulanth Peeth and Jagatipatt Temple are some of the famous places to visit near Baijnath Temple. There is another old Shiva Temple- Basheshwar Mahadev at some distance.

**Are there stay options at the top of the Bijli Mahadev Top?**

Yes, you can find some good campsites at the top of the temple for stay overnight or a short stay. They also provide trekking and hiking facilities.

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**Ref: ChatGpt**

# Bijli Mahadev Temple, Kullu (Himachal Pradesh)

1. **Location, Address, Contact**
**Location**: Bijli Mahadev, Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh
**District**: Kullu
**Altitude**: ~2,460 meters above sea level
**Nearest Town**: Kullu (about 14 km)
**Address**:
Bijli Mahadev Temple,
Chansari Village,
Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh – 175101
**Phone**:
There is no widely published official temple office number. Local inquiries can be made through:
Kullu Tourism Office
Local priests at the temple
2. **How to Reach**
**By Air**
Nearest Airport: Bhuntar Airport (Kullu-Manali Airport) (~10 km)
From airport: Taxi to Chansari village + trek
**By Rail**
Nearest broad gauge: Chandigarh / Pathankot
Then by road to Kullu

**By Road**
Well connected to Kullu, Manali, and Mandi
From Kullu → Chansari village (by road)

- **Final Trek**
- Trek distance: 3–4 km uphill
- Moderate difficulty
- Beautiful scenic route through pine forests

3. **Greatness and Specialty of the Temple**

- **The temple is famous for a unique natural phenomenon:**
- A tall staff (Trishul-like pole) near the temple is struck by lightning every year
- The Shiva Lingam gets shattered due to lightning
- Priests restore the lingam using butter and sattoo (flour)
- 👉 **This symbolizes**:
- The destructive and regenerative power of Lord Shiva
- The belief that Lord Shiva absorbs lightning, protecting the valley
- Hence the name:
- “Bijli Mahadev”
- (“Bijli” = lightning)

4. **Legends and History**

**According to legend:**

- A demon named Kulant took the form of a huge serpent and tried to flood the valley
- Lord Shiva killed the demon
- The demon’s body became the Kullu valley
- To protect the valley from destruction:
- Lord Shiva attracts lightning upon himself
- **The repeated breaking and restoration of the lingam signifies:**
- Cycle of destruction and creation

5. **Architecture of the Temple**

- Built in traditional Himachali wooden style
- Simple yet spiritually powerful structure

**Features**:

- Wooden shrine with sloping roof
- Open courtyard
- A tall staff/pole (~60 feet high) that attracts lightning
- Surrounded by:
- Dense forests
- Panoramic views of Kullu and Parvati valleys

6. **Main Deity**

Lord Shiva (Bijli Mahadev) in the form of a Shiva Lingam

7. **Sub-Deities**

- Small shrines for:
- Parvati Devi
- Nandi
- Local deities of the region

8. **Daily Rituals and Poojas**

**Typical daily worship includes:**

- Morning Abhishekam
- Rudra Path

- Aarti (morning and evening)
- **Approximate Charges**
- **(These are indicative; may vary)**
- Abhishekam: ₹100 – ₹300
- Archana: ₹50 – ₹150
- Rudrabhishek: ₹500 – ₹1500

9. **Special Poojas and Rituals**
   - Rudrabhishek (important ritual)
   - Mahashivaratri special poojas
   - Shravan month poojas
   - **Charges (approx.)**
   - Special Rudrabhishek: ₹1000 – ₹3000
   - **Festival poojas:** As per temple committee/local priests
10. **Festivals**
    - Mahashivaratri (Grand celebration)
    - Shravan Month (July–August)
    - Local fairs and village festivals
    - **During festivals:**
    - Large number of devotees trek to the temple
    - Cultural and devotional activities

11. **Facilities for Devotees**

**Basic facilities available:**

- Drinking water (limited)
- Small resting areas
- No major accommodation at the top
- **At Base (Chansari / Kullu):**
- Hotels and guest houses
- Food facilities

12. **Accommodation**
    - **Near Temple**:
    - Very limited / basic (temporary shelters)
    - **In Kullu**:
    - Plenty of options:
    - Budget hotels
    - Mid-range hotels
    - Guest houses
13. **Donation Information**

**Donations are usually:**

Given directly at the temple hundi

Through local priests/temple committee

❗ Bank account / UPI details are not publicly standardized (Devotees are advised to donate directly at temple)

14. **Nearby Temples**
    - Raghunath Temple, Kullu
    - Hadimba Devi Temple, Manali
    - Manikaran Sahib (Gurudwara & temple)
    - Vaishno Devi Temple (Kullu)

15. **Other Tourist Attractions**
    - Kullu Valley scenic views
    - Parvati Valley
    - Manali
    - Solang Valley
    - Rohtang Pass
    - Great Himalayan National Park
16. **Nearby Budget Hotels (Kullu)**
    - Hotel Shobla International
    - Hotel Dhauladhar
    - Hotel Sandhya Palace
    - Various budget lodges near bus stand
    - **Tariff range:**
    - ₹800 – ₹2500 per night (approx.)
17. **Important Tips for Visitors**
    - Start trek early in the morning
    - **Carry**:
    - Water
    - Snacks
    - Comfortable trekking shoes
    - Weather can change quickly
    - Avoid during heavy rains or snow
    - Elderly devotees should take care during trek
18. **Unique Spiritual Insight**
    - **Bijli Mahadev Temple beautifully represents:**
    - Shiva as the cosmic transformer
    - Acceptance of:
    - Destruction
    - Renewal
    - **A rare example where:**
    - Nature itself performs divine worship through lightning

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**Ref: Google Gemini**

**Preface**
This report serves as a comprehensive guide and historical record of the Bijli Mahadev Temple, a site of profound spiritual significance and natural mystery located in the Kullu Valley of Himachal Pradesh.

Situated at an altitude of 2,460 meters, this ancient shrine is not merely a place of worship but a living testament to the unique "Pahari" culture and the mystical relationship between the divine and the natural elements.

Through this documentation, we explore the legends that shaped the valley's identity, the architectural brilliance that withstands the Himalayan winters, and the rituals that continue to draw thousands of pilgrims to its summit.

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**The Bijli Mahadev Temple** is one of the most sacred and geographically stunning shrines in Northern India. Just a quick clarification before we dive in: while there is a Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh, the temple is located in Himachal Pradesh, not Madhya Pradesh.

### 📍 Location & Getting There

* **Address**: Mathan Hill, Bijli Mahadev Road, Chansari, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, 175101.
* **Phone**: +91 70183 11296 (Local management/tourism contact).

* **How to Get There**:

  * **By Air**: The nearest airport is Bhuntar Airport (Kullu), about 30 km from the base.

  * **By Rail**: The closest broad-gauge stations are Chandigarh or Kalka; the nearest narrow-gauge station is Joginder Nagar (145 km).

  * **By Road**: Buses run frequently from Kullu to Chansari Village.

  * **The Trek**: From Chansari, it is a 3 km uphill trek (approx. 1,000 stairs). It typically takes 1 to 2 hours through a scenic forest of deodar and pine trees.

### ✨ Greatness, Legends & History

The temple's name literally translates to "Lightning Mahadev."

It is famous for a mystical phenomenon where lightning strikes the temple's 60-foot staff every few years.

* **The Legend of Kulant**: Ancient lore says the demon Kulant took the form of a giant snake to drown the valley by blocking the Beas River. Lord Shiva killed him; his body turned into the mountains (hence the name "Kullu").

* **The Lightning Miracle:** To protect the valley from the demon's lingering power and to absorb the suffering of the people, Shiva is said to attract lightning to himself. The strike shatters the Shiva Lingam into pieces.

* **The Butter Ritual**: After a strike, the temple priests meticulously reassemble the broken pieces of the Lingam using butter and sattu (roasted grain flour).
Within a few months, the Lingam miraculously solidifies back into its original shape.

### 🏛️ Architecture & Deities

* **Style**: The temple follows the traditional Pahari (Hill) architecture, primarily built of wood and stone with a sloping slate roof to withstand heavy snow.

* **Main Deity**: Lord Shiva (in the form of the Shiva Lingam).

* **Features**: A 60-foot high wooden staff (Dhwaj) stands outside, which acts as the lightning rod. You will also find stone statues of Nandi (the bull) and other deities in the courtyard

### 🕯️ Rituals, Poojas & Charges

* **Daily Rituals**: The temple opens around 6:00 AM and closes by 7:00 PM (8:00 PM in peak summer). Morning and evening Aartis are performed daily.

* **Charges**: There is generally no entry fee. Most common poojas are performed by devotees offering milk, flowers, or butter. While specific "rate cards" are rare in these remote hill temples, voluntary donations are common.
Special rituals during festivals may have specific requirements; it is best to consult the head priest upon arrival.

### 🛌 Facilities for Devotees

* **Accommodation**: There is a small rest house (Dharamshala) near the temple that can house about 10–15 people. It offers basic bedding. For more comfort, most pilgrims stay in Kullu or Bhuntar.

* **Food**: Small canteens near the trek endpoint serve tea, snacks, and local dishes like Maggi and Momos. Free tea is often served to visitors at the temple.

* **Donations**: You can donate directly at the temple office. While they accept cash, many larger temples in the region have started displaying QR codes or bank details for UPI. For specific bank account transfers, please check with the local Temple Trust office in Kullu.

### 🗺️ Nearby Attractions & Budget Hotels

* **Nearby Temples:** Raghunath Temple (Kullu), Jagannathi Devi Temple (Bekhli), and Basheshwar Mahadev Temple (Bajura).

* **Other Attractions:** Great Himalayan National Park, Kasol (Parvati Valley), and Manikaran (hot springs).

* **Budget Hotels (Prices starting ₹800–₹1,500):**

  * Aashirwad Homestay (Kais)
  * Hotel Amit (Bhuntar)
  * Vibhawn Hotel (Near Bhuntar)
  * Himalaya Tourist (Bhuntar)

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**More details:**

### Detailed History & Deep-Rooted Legends

The temple's history is inseparable from the geography of the Kullu Valley.

* **The Demon Kulant:** According to the Puranas, a powerful demon named Kulant once took the form of a giant serpent.

He attempted to flood the valley by blocking the flow of the Beas River, intending to kill all life within it.
Lord Shiva intervened, engaging the demon in a fierce battle.
Shiva eventually tricked the demon and killed him; as Kulant died, his massive body transformed into the mountain ranges that now flank the valley. "Kullu" is said to be a derivative of "Kulant-peeth" (the end of the demon Kulant).

* **The Vashishta Request:** Another legend states that the sage Vashishta prayed to Lord Shiva to protect the valley from the frequent and destructive lightning strikes common in the high peaks.

Lord Shiva agreed to absorb the lightning himself to save his devotees, which led to the temple's unique phenomenon.

### 🏛️ Architecture & Sacred Deities

* **Style**: The temple is built in the Kath-Kuni style (also known as Kash style). This indigenous earthquake-resistant technique uses alternating layers of deodar wood and stone without using mortar or nails.

* **The 60-Foot Dhwaj:** Standing outside the temple is a massive wooden staff carved from a single deodar tree. This pole acts as a lightning rod and is replaced every few years in a major community ceremony.

* **Sanctum & Deities:** The main deity is Lord Shiva in the form of a stone Lingam. Interestingly, while most temples have a fixed structure, the "Makhan Mahadev" (Butter Mahadev) Lingam here is physically dynamic, being "reborn" after every lightning strike. Stone statues of Nandi and other local guardian deities are situated in the outer courtyard.

🕯️ **Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Charges**

* **Daily Schedule:** The temple follows a strict routine, opening at 6:00 AM and closing at 7:00 PM or 8:00 PM depending on the season.

* **The Butter Ritual:** The most sacred and unique ritual occurs after a lightning strike. The broken pieces of the Lingam are re-bonded using a mixture of unsalted butter, sattu (roasted barley/gram flour), and cereals.

* **Pooja Charges:** * General Darshan: Free of charge.

* **Individual Poojas**: There are no fixed "commercial" rate cards as found in urban temples. Devotees typically offer butter, milk, or flowers.

* **Donations**: Offerings are made via the Hundi (donation box).

* **Note**: For 2026, the temple officially reopens on March 15th after the winter closure.
🎊 Major Festivals (2026 Dates)

* **Maha Shivaratri** (February 17, 2026): Though the temple is technically closed during deep winter, local devotees often trek through the snow to pay respects, and a grand fair is held shortly after the temple reopens in March.

* **Shravan Month** (July/August): This is considered the most auspicious month for Shiva. Hundreds of devotees trek daily to offer water (Jal-Abhishek).

* **Pole Replacement Ceremony**: This does not have a fixed annual date but occurs every few years when the 60-foot deodar staff needs replacing. It is treated as a massive valley-wide festival involving thousands of locals.

**Conclusion**

The Bijli Mahadev Temple stands as a sentinel over the Kullu Valley, bridging the gap between ancient mythology and the raw power of nature. Its recurring cycle of destruction by lightning and restoration by the hands of faithful priests offers a powerful metaphor for resilience and rebirth.
As both a spiritual sanctuary and a marvel of Himalayan architecture, it remains an essential pillar of Northern India's cultural heritage, inviting both the devout pilgrim and the curious historian to witness its quiet, high-altitude majesty.

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Ref: travellingslacker.com

# Bijli Mahadev Temple: Trek to the Lightning Shiva of Kullu

**Bijli Mahadev Temple**

*“Here it is. The trek starts from there. We aren’t going any further. Said the HRTC Bus Conductor at Chansari “*

We got down, saw a trail going upwards and a Bengali joint family ogling at the steep ascent discussing with each other the feasibility of the trek.

The doubt for us here was that the Google map was showing a much easier and shorter route a few KMs ahead and the road where the bus stopped was definitely going further.

To our surprise, the bus started again and instead of turning around, it started driving ahead, towards the original point where we wanted to reach. I have no idea why they didn’t want us to drop at the last point but we were in no mood to hike up the longer route on a hot and sunny day.

I was mentally prepared to walk the whole way along the road but Shubham started trying to hitch a ride. The first couple of cars didn’t care but one finally stopped. It turned out that the gentleman and his better half from Mandi were also going to the temple and so, they gave us a lift and we reached the desired point soon (we also saw the bus that betrayed us again).

Anyway, the trek from here is simple. The point here is called “Karate”, from where the hike starts. It takes around 50-60 minutes to reach the top and although I heard people saying 3KMs, I felt it was closer to 2 KMs as we reached in an hour even with my low fitness levels nowadays.

While it was not that difficult, we took many breaks due to the heat. There were many people on the trail including a Gujarati group and many Sikhs too. This is something about Indic faiths that western academia won’t understand. Everyone respects the lord of lightning here. In fact, we even say a tall tree with a long vertical scar, sign of a lightning strike.

After a brief hike, we rose above the treeline and appeared on a vast open meadow, dotted by several shacks selling food items as well as items used by devotees for worship such as flowers and incense sticks. The setup somewhat reminded me of Shikari Devi.

**Food stalls enroute to the temple**

After a small stretch of these shacks we quickly reached the temple, but there was a huge crowd in front of it because it happened to be the annual visit of another deity (the sister of the resident deity here). Such procession of deities are very common in the Himalayas and I have mentioned many of them in some old travelogues such as the one in Shangarh and Bashleo Pass (& more of them coming from this trip).

As per legends every 12 years, the Shivling at Bijli Mahadev is struck by lightning which breaks it into pieces. Apparently a Demon Kulanta was slayed by Lord Shiva here and that is why this site became revered. The priest then wraps the broken lingam with butter and after a few days it gets restored.

However, the name of the entire Kullu region originates from the term “Kulanta” according to some other sources. These two etymologies are probably related but I could not find any verifiable source.

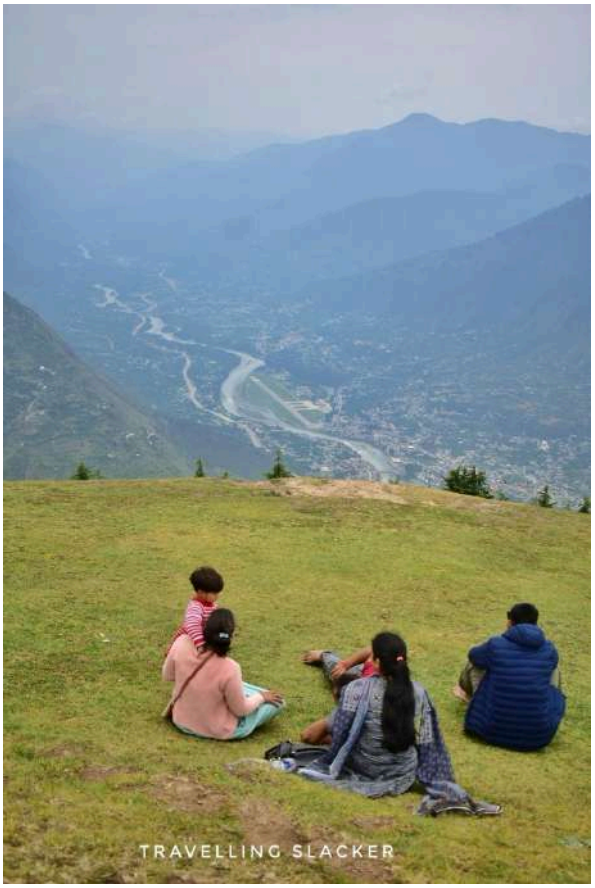
While the exact historical details are not known, it’s an ancient shrine with a classic medieval kathkuni style wooden temple. Photography is not allowed inside the sanctum sanctorum but one can click the structure from outside. There’s also a gigantic staff in front of the temple, another installation to attract lightening.

**Note the giant staff**

We removed our shoes and went to the other side of the meadow with several giant tridents, to the literal edge from where the entire Kullu Valley including the Bhuntar airstrip was visible. Unfortunately it was sort of a hazy day. So, the view is actually better than what I managed to capture. We took a break and had some apricots and plums (it was that season) while waiting for the crowd to disperse.

**Seasonal respite**

**View of Kullu valley**




**Can you spot the sir strip?**

After a while, the rituals were completed and the crowd left the compound, allowing the rest of the visitors to pay their respect. We also followed everyone else and went inside, lit an incense stick and collected prasad.

**Another view of the temple**

Before leaving, we took some time to explore the interesting stone sculptures that are installed just in front of the temple. Just have a look at them.

**Sculptures outside the temple**

**Another angle**

So, this was more or less it. It was short and quick. I also shit some footage that nobody is likely to watch but anyway… here's it.

**Bijli Mahadev Travel Guide**

**How to reach Bijli Mahadev?**

The easiest way is to go to the Kullu Bus Stand in the morning and look for a bus to Bijli Mahadev. Several buses ply on that route. Usually the buses drop you somewhere in Chansari Village. However the road goes further and the shorter route starts from a place called Karate. We got a bus at around 9.30 AM. I'd say 8-10 am is a good time. You don't want to go in the afternoon and then get stranded.

Also note that these local buses are very slow. It'll take time although the distance isn't much as they'll stop at every village on the way.

**How long is the Bijli Mahadev Trek?**

From the shorter point at Karate, it's around 2 KMs which should take an hour of trekking or even less. In case you take up the longer route, it may take 3 hrs or more from what I have heard.

**Food and water available on the trek?**

It's always good to trek with a bottle of water but there are several shacks along the way selling fruits, fast food and bottled water (don't litter though).

**Network During the Trek?**

It's a popular trek frequented by a lot of people. Phone and data connectivity wasn't an issue either.

**By**:

***Jitaditya Narzary***

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***Solo traveller since 2010i***

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**Videos:**

Bijli Mahadev Temple trek: https://youtu.be/AcQfUluPksA?si=o6_YqZLw5d6WuRAF

Bijli Mahadev Temple (16 min): https://youtu.be/UDXsHTmlnrk?si=wdraqK028D_5jI99

Bijli Mahadev Temple (11 min): https://youtu.be/4Z8VeJL6XnQ?si=hrFCRTMKNQeBb38U

Bijli Mahadev Temple (12 min): https://youtu.be/BOiyUvF1634?si=js7HWpeEQDgyC4A2

Bijli Mahadev Temple secrets(17 min):

https://youtu.be/e85hnVQ3m34?si=6Bn4hBd6EwigvrPn

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**Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar , March 18, 2026**

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